

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 H-02
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FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3829
INFO AMEMBASSY BERN
FBI WASHDC
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
JCS WASHDC
AMEMBASSY PARIS
REDCOM
USMISSION USBERLIN
HQ USEUCOM

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BRUSSELS FOR EAO
FRANKFURT FOR RSS
PARIS FOR FAA AND CIVIL AIR ATTACHE & TWA SECURITY OFFICER

E.O.11652:N/A
TAGS: PINS, EAIR, ASEC
SUBJ: TWA HIJACKING, GENEVA, AUGUST 25, 1978

1. US MISSION GENEVA WAS FIRST ALERTED OF POSSIBLE
HIJACKING OF TWA FLIGHT 830 AT 0743 HRS FROM A TELEPHONE
CALL FROM RAFFAELE GERARDO, TWA MANAGER - AIRPORT
SERVICES, GENEVA. THE MARINE ON DUTY IMMEDIATELY
CONTACTED THE DUTY OFFICER, MICHAEL WALSH AT 0744
WHO IN TURN REQUESTED THE RSO BE CONTACTED. RSO
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CALLED THE DUTY OFFICER BACK AND ADVISED HIM TO APPRAISE
DCM SORENSON OF THE INCIDENT. MISSION WAS SECURED.

2. RSO IMMEDIATELY DEPARTED FOR THE AIRPORT AND ARRIVED
AT APPROXIMATELY 0830 AND WAS ADVISED THAT THE FLIGHT
HAD ALREADY LANDED. RSO MET AMB VANDEN HEUVEL AT THE
POLICE CHECKPOINT AND RSO APPRAISED HIM OF THE INFOR-

MATION CONCERNING THE HIJACKING, AT WHICH TIME AMB VANDEN HEUVEL STATED HE HAD ALREADY BEEN ADVISED BY DCM SORENSON. AMB VANDEN HEUVEL STATED HIS DAUGHTER WAS A PASSENGER ON THE TWA FLIGHT.

3. RSO AND AMB VANDEN HEUVEL PROCEEDED TO THE ARRIVAL GATE AND WERE ADVISED BY THE AIRPORT OFFICIALS THAT THE PLANE WOULD REMAIN ON THE SERVICE TARMAC LANDING AREA.

4. RSO REQUESTED TO MEET WITH TWA MANAGER GERARDO, AND AMB VANDEN HEUVEL AND RSO WERE TAKEN TO THE CRISIS CONTROL CENTER, BUILDING SSA.

5. UPON ARRIVAL AT TWA CONTROL CENTER, GERARDO ADVISED THAT HE HAD RECEIVED A TELEPHONE MESSAGE AT APPROXIMATELY 0700 FROM THE TWA PARIS OFFICE INDICATING THAT CAPT ROBERT HAMILTON HAD RECEIVED A HIJACK NOTE DELIVERED BY A HOSTESS WHILE FLYING APPROXIMATELY OVER SHANNON AIRPORT. AT 0740, GERARDO RECONFIRMED WITH TWA GENEVA THAT THE PLANE WAS IN A HIJACK STATUS AND HE INFORMED THE MARINE GUARD, US MISSION, OF THE SITUATION. AT THE CRISIS CENTER, IT WAS DETERMINED THAT THEY WERE NOT IN DIRECT RADIO CONTACT WITH THE AIRPLANE. HOWEVER, A MESSAGE WAS DELIVERED FROM CAPT HAMILTON REQUESTING THAT A REPRESENTATIVE OF TWA COME TO THE PLANE WITHOUT A JACKET TO OBTAIN A NOTE DIRECTED TO THE INTERNATIONAL UNCLASSIFIED

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RED CROSS, AND THE NOTE DELIVERED TO CAPT HAMILTON. IN ADDITION, MR. GERARDO ALSO WAS TO ESTABLISH GROUND RADIO CONTACT WITH THE TWA PLANE.

6. GERARDO IMMEDIATELY VOLUNTEERED AND HE APPROACHED THE PLANE FROM THE LEFT SIDE AS INSTRUCTED BY CAPT HAMILTON. UPON A HAND SIGNAL FROM CAPT HAMILTON, HE SLOWLY APPROACHED THE PLANE, RECEIVED THE NOTES AND ATTEMPTED TO ESTABLISH A LAND RADIO COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM. THE NOTES WERE DELIVERED AND MR. GERARDO RETURNED WITH THE NOTES, WHICH WERE GIVEN TO THE POLICE SO THAT THE CONTENTS COULD BE ANALYZED AND APPROPRIATE COPIES MADE. RSO RECEIVED PHOTOSTATIC COPY WHICH HE IMMEDIATELY HAD DELIVERED TO THE US MISSION. BOTH MESSAGES WERE TRANSMITTED TO THE DEPT BY FLASH CABLE. NO ATTEMPT WAS MADE BY THE POLICE TO EXAMINE THE LETTERS FOR LATENT FINGERPRINTS OR TO PROTECT THE LETTERS AS EVIDENCE. IN FACT, THE ORIGINAL LETTERS WERE NOT SECURELY IN THE HANDS OF THE POLICE UNTIL SUNDAY, AUGUST 27.

7. AT APPROXIMATELY 0930, MR. PAUL GENTON, AIRPORT MANAGER,

ADVISED THAT ALL NONPOLICE PERSONNEL WERE TO ASSEMBLE AT THE AIRPORT'S SALON D'HONOR D'ETATS (VIP STATE LOUNGE). HE ADVISED THAT ALL DECISIONS WOULD BE MADE IN THIS ROOM. AMB VANDEN HEUVEL AND THE RSO WENT IMMEDIATELY TO THE VIP ROOM WHERE THEY MET WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS, MR. MICHAEL CONVERS AND MR. WILHELM, WHO WAS LATER JOINED BY JEAN-PIERRE HOCKE. ALSO ATTENDING THE MEETINGS IN THIS ROOM WERE MR. ALAN BORNER, CONSULAR D'ETAT, MR. FONTANEL, CHEF DU DEPARTE-

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MENT DU JUSTICE ET DE POLICE, AND MR. J. WARYNSKI, CHIEF OF POLICE OF GENEVA. IT BECAME APPARENT THAT NO DECISIONS WERE BEING MADE AT THIS TIME, AND THE POLICE WENT INTO CONFERENCE AMONG THEMSELVES AS TO THE ACTION TO BE FOLLOWED.

8. AMB. VANDEN HEUVEL AND THE RSO WERE ALERTED THAT THE TWA SERVICE AREA WAS IN CONTACT WITH CAPT HAMILTON THROUGH TWA'S RADIO CONSOLE. AMB VANDEN HEUVEL AND RSO PROCEEDED TO THE AREA AND LISTENED TO THE CONVERSATION BETWEEN TWA CAPT BILL WILLIAMS AND CAPT HAMILTON. AFTER READING BOTH

THREATENING LETTERS FOR THE SECOND TIME, BOTH AMB VANDEN HEUVEL AND THE RSO CAME TO SIMILAR CONCLUSIONS THAT THE LETTERS WERE WRITTEN BY AN EMOTIONALLY DISTURBED PERSON
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AND THAT THE ALLEGED HIJACKING WAS A HOAX. OUR VIEWS WERE BASED ON THE EXTREMELY DIVERSIFIED POLITICAL ISSUES RAISED IN BOTH LETTERS, THE RAMBLING NATURE OF THE LETTERS, AND THE INABILITY OF THE HIJACKERS TO EITHER NEGOTIATE OR IDENTIFY HIMSELF. AMB VANDEN HEUVEL EXPRESSED THIS VIEW TO CAPT HAMILTON AND SUGGESTED TO CAPT HAMILTON THAT HE ANNOUNCE TO THE PASSENGERS THAT AMB VANDEN HEUVEL AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS WERE WILLING TO TALK TO ANYONE IN THE PLANE AND THAT HE SHOULD MAKE THIS ANNOUNCEMENT EVERY 15 MINUTES FOR ONE HOUR. IF NO ONE CAME FORWARD, HE SHOULD EVACUATE THE PLANE.

9. CAPT HAMILTON REJECTED THE SUGGESTION UNTIL HE COULD BETTER ASSESS THE SITUATION WITHIN THE CABIN. IT IS TO BE NOTED AT THIS TIME, NO ONE IN THE COCKPIT WAS AWARE OF ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE CABIN.

10. AT APPROXIMATELY 0945, THE SWISS POLICE AND THE AIRPORT AUTHORITIES REQUESTED THAT TWA DISCONTINUE THEIR RADIO CONTACT WITH THE PLANE. AMB VANDEN HEUVEL STRESSED WITH AIRPORT AND POLICE AUTHORITIES THAT IT WAS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT THAT AN AMERICAN ENGLISH SPEAKER WHO WAS FAMILIAR WITH AIRPLANES AND WHO HAD A THOROUGH KNOWLEDGE OF THE NUANCES OF THE AMERICAN ENGLISH LANGUAGE BE ALLOWED TO CONVERSE WITH CAPT HAMILTON. THE RSO STRESSED THAT IT WAS ESSENTIAL THAT THE DIALOGUE BETWEEN CAPT HAMILTON AND THE AIRPORT BE MAINTAINED SO AS ANY CHANGES IN THE SITUATION OCCURRED, IT COULD BE IMMEDIATELY KNOWN TO THE PEOPLE ON THE GROUND. POLICE AGREED AND RADIO COMMUNICATION WAS MAINTAINED BY WALKIE TALKIE FROM AN AUTOMOBILE STATIONED NEAR THE CRISIS CENTER.

11. AT APPROXIMATELY 10:30 A FIELD TELEPHONE LINE WAS
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CONNECTED TO THE PLANE AND RADIO COMMUNICATIONS SEVERED. THE FIELD TELEPHONE LINE WAS STATIONED AT THE AIRPORT CRISIS CENTER TO WHICH THE AMB AND THE RSO RETURNED. MR. STEWART LONG, INT. V.P. TWA, PARIS AND CAPT WILLIAMS MAINTAINED RADIO CONTACT WITH CAPT HAMILTON FOR THE DURATION OF THE HIJACK.

12. THE AMB'S IDEA OF MAKING AN ANNOUNCEMENT WAS DISCUSSED WITH THE POLICE WHO THOUGHT IT WAS AN EXCELLENT IDEA. HOWEVER, BEFORE CAPT HAMILTON WOULD MAKE ANY DECISION, HE FIRST WANTED TO WALK THROUGH THE CABIN TO SEE IF THERE WERE ANY SUSPICIOUS PERSONS OR ACTIVITIES. IT IS TO BE NOTED THAT DURING OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH THE CAPT, APPROXIMATELY FOUR INDIVIDUALS WERE CITED AS POTENTIAL SUSPECTS. ONE OF THEM WAS KREITLOW LOCATED IN SEAT 18B. AS NOTED IN GENEVA 12991, KREITLOW WAS HELD FOR FURTHER INTERROGATION BY SWISS POLICE.

13. BETWEEN 11:15 AND 12:00 NOON, CAPT HAMILTON WALKED THROUGH THE CABIN AND FOUND NO UNUSUAL ACTIVITIES. HE NOTED THAT KREITLOW HAD WRITTEN A LETTER TO HIS FAMILY IN THE GERMAN LANGUAGE AND AT THAT TIME DID NOT CONSIDER HIS BEHAVIOR AS SUSPICIOUS. CAPT HAMILTON STATED HE DIDN'T WISH TO MAKE ANY DECISIONS UNTIL HIS FUEL SUPPLY HAD BEEN EXHAUSTED. SINCE HIS ARRIVAL, HE HAD KEPT HIS ENGINES RUNNING TO EXHAUST HIS FUEL AND AT APPROXIMATELY 1320 HRS, CAPT HAMILTON INFORMED THE PASSENGERS THAT TO WRITE ON A PIECE OF PAPER IF THEY WISHED TO SEE A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RED CROSS, OR THE AMERICAN AMB.

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14. AT 1410 HRS, THE AUXILIARY POWER UNIT WAS CONNECTED TO THE AIRPLANE AND THE MOTORS WERE TURNED OFF. HOWEVER, WE NEVER RECEIVED THE RESULTS OF HIS INQUIRY SINCE IT TOOK SOME TIME TO COLLECT ALL OF THE PAPERS. IT WAS DECIDED IN THE MEANTIME THAT AMB VANDEN HEUVEL AND THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RED CROSS WOULD APPROACH THE PLANE AND BE READY TO NEGOTIATE WITH ANYBODY.

15. AT APPROXIMATELY 1410 THE POLICE ANNOUNCED THAT BEFORE THIS WOULD TAKE PLACE, THERE WOULD BE A PRIOR MEETING WITH THE SWISS POLICE AND THE SWISS GOVERNMENT AS TO THE ACTION TAKEN.

16. AT APPROXIMATELY 1500 HRS, IT WAS DECIDED THAT THE UNCLASSIFIED

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AMERICAN AMB AND THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE RED CROSS WOULD GO ABOARD THE PLANE. AMB VANDEN HEUVEL FULLY ACCEPTED THE RESPONSIBILITY. HIS ONLY REQUEST TO THE CAPT WAS THAT HIS DAUGHTER MAKE NO OUTWARD MANIFESTATION TO RECOGNIZE HIM. HOWEVER, OFFICIALS OF THE RED CROSS REFUSED TO GO ABOARD THE PLANE.

17. AMB VANDEN HEUVEL WAS QUITE WILLING TO GO ABOARD THE PLANE BY HIMSELF. THE RSO NOTED THAT HE WAS WILLING TO ACCOMPANY HIM OR TO OBTAIN SOME BULLET-PROOF PROTECTION. THE SWISS GOVERNMENT INTERVENED WITH THE PRESENCE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL, MR. FURGLER, ANNOUNCING THAT THIS WAS A SWISS MATTER AND THAT THE AMB SHOULD NOT GO ABOARD.

18. WITH ASSISTANCE OF RSO, AMB VANDEN HEUVEL RECEIVED A TELEPHONE CALL FROM UNDERSECRETARY OF STATE CHRISTOPHER INFORMING HIM OF THE DEPARTMENT'S DECISION THAT HE SHOULD NOT GO ABOARD THE PLANE.

19. AT 1550, THE INTERNATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT FOR TWA, MR. STEWART LONG, AND MR. TROYON, COMMANDER OF POLICE AT THE AIRPORT, BOARDED THE TWA FLIGHT AND AT APPROXIMATELY 1600 PASSENGERS WERE EVACUATED. ALL PASSENGERS WERE HELD UNDER POLICE CUSTODY UNTIL THEIR PASSPORTS COULD BE VERIFIED, PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN OF THEIR PASSPORTS, THEY WERE FINGERPRINTED, LUGGAGE EXAMINED, AND THE PLANE SEARCHED.

20. RSO SPOKE WITH MS. PATTI PRINCE IN THE PRESENCE OF THE BERN LEGAL ATTACHE, MR. LEONARD RALSTON. MS. PRINCE IS THE STEWARDESS WHO HAD RECEIVED THE TWO THREATENING

NOTES. SHE ADVISED THAT SHE HAD BEEN DOZING IN THE JUMP SEAT AT THE REAR OF THE PLANE WHEN AN UNKNOWN MALE UNCLASSIFIED

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APPROACHED HER WEARING A WIG, A MUSTACHE, AND A CAPE WITH CIRCULAR OBJECTS HANGING FROM INSIDE THE CAPE. THE UNKNOWN MALE INDIVIDUAL NUDGED WITH HIS ELBOW AND SPOKE "GO". SHE WENT IMMEDIATELY TO THE CAPT WHERE SHE REMAINED UNDER ORDERS OF THE CAPTAIN. SHE WAS UNABLE TO GIVE A DETAILED PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION OTHER THAN THAT HE WORE A FAKE WIG, MUSTACHE AND WORE A CAPE. IT IS TO BE NOTED THAT THE AIRLINE HOSTESS APPEARED TO BE RELUCTANT TO RELATE THE FACT THAT SHE WAS ASLEEP BECAUSE SHE FEARED LOSING HER JOB.

21. DURING INSPECTION OF THE PLANE, THE POLICE LOCATED A BLOND WIG, PAIR OF SUNGLASSES, BROWN BEARD, CAPE WITH BALLOONS PINNED TO THE INSIDE TO GIVE THE IMPRESSION OF GRENADES. THE BALLOONS CONTAINED AN UNDETERMINED CLEAR LIQUID. COLOR PHOTOGRAPHS HAVE BEEN TRANSMITTED TO THE FBI WASHINGTON. THE POLICE EXAMINED A PORTION OF THE PASSENGERS TO FIND OUT IF THERE WERE ANY ADHESIVE GLUE ON THEIR FACES INDICATING THEY HAD WORN A WIG OR MUSTACHE. THESE SEARCHES PROVED TO BE NEGATIVE.

22. THE SWISS POLICE DETAINED TWO PASSENGERS, WILLIAM MARTIN CORZER AND RUDY ZEGFRIED KRUNO KREITLOW (SEE GENEVA 12991). BOTH PASSENGERS WERE DETAINED BY THE POLICE BECAUSE OF THEIR NERVOUSNESS. POLICE AND RSO STRONGLY FEEL THAT KREITLOW IS POSSIBLY INVOLVED IN THIS HIJACKING. KREITLOW ADMITTED THAT HE WAS A MEMBER OF THE HITLER YOUTH MOVEMENT, AND A FORMER SUBMARINER IN THE GERMAN NAVY STATIONED AT CHERBOURG, FRANCE DURING WORLD WAR II. ALSO DURING QUESTIONING BY THE POLICE, KREITLOW INDICATED THAT HE FELT THAT HITLER WAS INITIALLY GOOD FOR GERMANY. HE HAD SOME RESERVATION CONCERNING

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HITLER'S ACTIVITIES IN THE LATTER PART OF HIS POLITICAL CAREER. CONCERNING HESS, KREITLOW FELT THAT SUCH AN OLD MAN AS HESS SHOULD BE RELEASED. KREITLOW SAYS HE ENJOYS THE UNITED STATES; BUT IS NOT WILLING TO BECOME A CITIZEN BECAUSE HE LIKES GERMANY MORE. KREITLOW

WAS OBSERVED AT ONE OF THE HOLDING AREAS FOR THE PASSENGERS ATTEMPTING TO CHECK THE DOORS TO SEE IF THEY WOULD OPEN. THE STATEMENT HE WROTE WHILE ON THE PLANE REFLECTED AN INDIVIDUAL UNDER STRESS AND THAT HE ANSWERED YES TO THE QUESTION TO MEET WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE RED CROSS OR THE AMERICAN AMB. SOME EMOTIONAL INSTABILITY IS REFLECTED IN KREITLOW'S PERSONALITY AS NOTED IN BONN 14472 AND HIS ATTEMPT TO MAINTAIN TWO IDENTITIES (KREITLOW AND UNCLASSIFIED

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MEITAL). THE THREAT NOTE TO THE CAPT REFLECTED THE INDIVIDUAL'S KNOWLEDGE OF GERMAN WAS GREATER THAN HIS KNOWLEDGE OF ENGLISH.

24. THE POLICE ADVISED THAT KREITLOW WAS PRESENTLY UNEMPLOYED AND WAS RECEIVING SOCIAL SECURITY -- APPROXIMATELY \$200 A MONTH. THEY FURTHER ADVISED THAT HE HAD \$1,000 ON HIS PERSON. HE POSSESSED AN OPEN TWA TICKET TO RETURN TO THE USA. TWA SECURITY OFFICER, PARIS, ROBERT R. KIERCE, ADVISED ON 8/30/78, THAT THEY WILL SEND AN ALERT ON KREITLOW TO THEIR STATION MANAGERS. KREITLOW WILL BE ALLOWED TO RETURN TO THE US.

25. PRESENTLY, SWISS POLICE FORENSIC LABORATORY IN

ZURICH IS EXAMINING AFOREMENTIONED ARTICLES FOUND IN TOILET BELONGING TO HIJACKER. RSO WAS INFORMED INFORMALLY BY THE SWISS POLICE THAT THE YELLOW FIBERS FOUND ON KREITLOW'S CLOTHING DID NOT CORRESPOND TO THE FIBERS FOUND ON THE CAPE. RSO WILL FORWARD TO SY COPIES OF THE DISGUISE AND PERTINENT NEWSPAPER ARTICLES CONCERNING THIS INCIDENT.

26. SWISS POLICE FURNISHED RSO WITH A PHOTOGRAPH OF EACH PASSENGER'S PASSPORT. RSO REQUESTED RESPECTIVE RSOS AND LEGAL ATTACHES TO CONFIRM THE BONA FIDE OF THE FOREIGN NATIONALS AND REPORT THEIR RESULTS TO FBI WASHINGTON. IN ADDITION, SWISS POLICE FURNISHED PHOTOSTATIC COPIES OF FINGERPRINT CHARTS OF ALL PASSENGERS WHICH HAVE BEEN TRANSMITTED TO FBI, NYFO.

27. TO SATISFY A REQUEST FROM SWISS POLICE, RSO AND TWA SECURITY OFFICER, PARIS WERE INSTRUMENTAL IN OBTAINING THE SEATING PLAN OF TWA FLIGHT. THIS INFORMATION HAS UNCLASSIFIED

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ALSO BEEN TRANSMITTED TO FBI WASHINGTON BY CABLE.

28. RSO RECEIVED PHOTOSTATIC COPIES OF THE SIGNED STATEMENT PREPARED BY TWA PERSONNEL ABOARD TWA FLIGHT 830 PLUS A COPY OF KREITLOW'S STATEMENT TO THE CAPT.

29. IN LIEU OF FINAL REPORT, THIS TELEGRAPHIC REPORT IS SUBMITTED.

30. TWA SECURITY OFFICER ADVISED KREITLOW BOOKED TO DEPART GENEVA SEPT. 14 (SEE GENEVA 13282).

VANDEN HEUVEL

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Message Attributes

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